BILSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D., EDIN.,

FOR THE YEAR 1901.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SANITARY AUTHORITY.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BILSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit my Seventeenth Annual Report—that for the year 1901—on the health and sanitary condition of the district under your control.

Enteric Fever.—Eighteen cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever, in eighteen houses, were notified during the year, as compared with the same number in the previous year, 71 in the year 1899, and 92 in 1898. Four of the cases, one in a young child under 5 years of age, terminated fatally. Seven of the cases occurred in the New Town Ward, 5 in the High Town, 4 in Ettingshall, and 1 each in the Town Hall and Bradley Wards.

I have repeatedly discussed, in previous Reports, the causes of Enteric Fever, and the real significance of its presence in a district. It is known that the disease can be caused by pollution of the water supply; of articles of food, particularly milk; that the germs can be conveyed through the air, and further, that contaminated soil, in an especial manner, will give rise to it. Enteric Fever will always exist in this town, in varying degree, until the soil, especially around and under dwellings, is rendered more pure. This can never be until we have a new sewerage scheme, with the general introduction of water-closets; the abolition of the midden privy system, and the disgraceful method of "tipping" still in use here; and the thorough preparation of building land, which very largely consists of "made soil," *e.g.*, by the use of layers of concrete, before dwellings are allowed to be erected thereon.

All the cases this year were, as usual, found only in the poorer class of dwellings, and notices to abate any nuisances discovered were served on the owners.

Scarlet Fever.—Thirty-four cases of Scarlet Fever, in 24 homes, were notified during the year, as compared with 41 in the previous year, 20 in the year 1899, 91 in 1898, 112 in 1897, and 118 in 1896. Two of the cases ended in death.

This disease had been rather prevalent in the last quarter of 1900, but no cases were notified in January, 1901. Two notifications were however received in February, 3 in March, 3 in April, 2 in May, 1 in June, 5 in August, 6 in September, 7 in October, 1 in November, and 3 in December. Fifteen cases came from the Town Hall Ward, 14 from the New Town, 3 from the High Town, and 2 from Ettingshall Ward. Twenty-two patients were removed to the Hospital, of whom 1 died—a weakly young child under 5 years of age, whose father was at the very time dying of consumption.

Measles.—Only two deaths, 1 in February and the other in August, and both in children under 5 years of age, were certified as due to Measles. A few cases, at different times, were known, but fortunately at no period during the year did the malady attain epidemic proportions. This year compared most favourably with last year, when no less than 35 deaths were attributed to Measles—a fact demonstrating only too well that it is not the simple complaint many people imagine.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—Thirteen Notifications were received during the year, 8 of Diphtheria in 5 houses and 5 of Membranous Croup; 3 of the former and 3 of the latter ending fatally. In the previous two years 11 Notifications were received, 8 in the year 1898, 6 in 1897, and 23 in 1896. In all cases the dwellings were visited, and any insanitary conditions remedied.

I can only repeat the statement I made last year, that the provision for bacteriological investigation by the Authorities of the University of Birmingham, arranged by the Staffordshire County Council in cases of supposed Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Phthisis is still in force, and is free to all medical practitioners. None have yet availed themselves of the privilege, and the Clerk has recently, on your instructions, issued a circular letter to them again drawing their attention to this.

Whooping Cough.—Twenty-seven deaths, 8 being in infants under 1 year of age, and 16 in children between 1 and 5 years, were due to Whooping Cough, as compared with 8 in the previous year, 9 in the year 1899, 6 in 1898, 6 in 1897, and 17 in 1896. It will thus be noticed that the mortality of the malady this year was much above the average, which for the past decade was only 10 per year. There is no doubt that this could be most considerably lessened were more care taken. Frequently children, when suffering from this complaint, are unduly exposed to the dangers of Bronchitis and Pneumonia, both very fatal diseases when associated with Whooping Cough.

Diarrhœa.—Fifty-eight deaths from Diarrhœa, 40 being in infants under 1 year of age, and 16 in children over 1 and under 5 years were registered in the year, as compared with 30 in the previous year, 60 in the year 1899, 61 in 1898, 69 in 1897, and 29 in 1896. The following gives the number of deaths, below and above 5 years of age, and the mortality rate per thousand for the past ten years :—

Deaths from Diarrhœa ...	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892
Children under 5 years of age	56	29	58	59	63	26	38	9	27	13
Above 5 years	2	1	2	2	6	3	4	1	8	
	58	30	60	61	69	29	42	10	35	13
Rate per thousand	2·4	1·2	2·5	2·5	2·9	1·2	1·7	·42	1·4	·55

The prevalence of Diarrhœa in the hot weather and autumn was not so marked this year, and yet there is a considerable increase in the number of deaths over the previous year. This is due in part to the fact that alterations have recently been made by the Local Government Board in the mode of classification, with the object of differentiating more clearly certain classes of disease, and some that would previously have been excluded are now included under the term "Diarrhœa."

Since the deaths notified of this disease are three-fifths of the mortality due to the seven zymotic diseases the mode of its prevention cannot be too strongly insisted upon. All theories apart we know that it depends upon certain meteorological conditions, and upon certain conditions of the soil acting together. Numerous observations have shown that a loose porous soil, charged with organic matter, favours diarrhœal diseases, and that the tendency of these diseases is at a maximum when the temperature of the soil reaches 56° F. at a depth of four feet from the surface; a certain degree of moisture of the soil is also requisite. In open districts, with good ventilation, the diarrhœal mortality is very low compared with that of more crowded localities. It is absolutely essential therefore, that the soil be kept as free from impurities as possible, and that poisonous emanations from the soil be shut off from the houses. The former condition is attained by having all sewage matter carried away from the houses as rapidly as possible without soaking in the soil, and the latter condition is satisfied by having a layer of concrete. at least six inches thick, on the surface of the ground below every dwelling house, in addition to the usual damp-proof courses. These two conditions, as also the provision of ample means of ventilation in and about, and underneath, dwelling houses, should be insisted upon whenever possible, and especially in all new dwellings.

It must be added that Diarrhœa among infants and young children is often largely due to errors of diet, and the want of proper care and cleanliness in their management generally. In the words of Dr. Hope, "Investigation proves incontestably that the deaths of infants from this cause are closely associated with the method of feeding, putrefying food being the medium by which the specific poison is commonly introduced. The deaths amongst children under three months of age, either wholly or partially fed on artificial foods, are fifteen times as great as they are amongst an equal number of infants fed upon breast milk; *e.g.*, investigationhas tended to prove that, out of every 1,000 infants under three

months of age, naturally fed upon breast milk alone, 20 die of autumnal choleraic disease; but if the same number of infants, at the same age, are artificially fed, then, instead of 20 dying, as many as 300 will die from this cause."

Erysipelas—There have been 49 cases—with 2 deaths—of Erysipelas notified during the past year, as compared with 45 in the previous year, 36 in the year 1899, 34 in 1898, 19 in 1897, and 13 in 1896. Of these no less than 20 were received from one practitioner.

Influenza.—Only 2 deaths, both in children under 5 years of age, were attributed directly to Influenza, as compared with 16 in the previous year, 4 in the year 1899, 6 in 1898, 9 in 1897, and 3 in 1896.

Zymotic Diseases—Ninety-nine deaths, 90 being in children under 5 years of age, were attributed to the seven principal Zymotic diseases, as compared with 90 in the previous year, 91 in the year 1899, 119 in 1898, 99 in 1897, 81 in 1896, and 118 in 1895. The subjoined Table shows the number of deaths from each of these causes for the past year and the previous ten years, and gives the rate per thousand of the population.

Deaths from	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	Average 1891-00	1901
Scarlet Fever ...		6	9	8	1	10	8	6	1	4	5·3	2
Small Pox				1	1						·2	
Measles	9	13	15		51	7	11	19		35	16·	2
Whooping Cough ...	6	23	7	12	3	17	6	6	9	8	9·7	27
Enteric Fever ...	1	6	4	1	8	7	1	22	15	4	6·9	4
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	5	4	3	8	12	11	4	5	6	9	6·7	6
Diarrhœa	15	13	35	10	42	29	69	61	60	30	36·4	58
	36	65	73	40	118	81	99	119	91	90	81·2	99
Rate per thousand...	1·3	2·7	3·1	1·7	5·02	3·4	4·02	5·06	3·8	3·6	3·3	4·1

Vaccination.—The returns of the Vaccination Officer are given for the ten years 1891-1900, and for the first half of the year 1901. They will be found very satisfactory.

	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	Half Year to June 30, 1901
Births Registered ...	891	946	929	939	926	955	864	963	934	959	892	443
Succ'ssf'lly Vaccinat'd	741	755	736	734	731	670	613	633	688	829	769	378
Insusceptible ...	5	2	9	6	4	6	4	3	1	11	7	2
Died Unvaccinated...	93	119	117	145	111	133	118	167	143	94	96	47
Postponed	20	40	41	19	10	29	12	8	5	1	1	1
Removed from District	29	30	26	35	34	53	29	26	10	10	6	3
Certificates of Conscientious Objectors								5	12	8	6	8
Unaccounted for ...					33	61	88	121	75	6	7	4
	891	946	929	939	926	955	864	963	934	959	892	443

Infectious Diseases (Notification Act, 1888.

During the year 115 certificates under this Act were received, being 1 less than in the previous year, viz., 34 of Scarlet Fever, 18 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Puerperal Fever, 8 of Diphtheria, 5 of Membranous Croup, and 49 of Erysipelas. There were 139 certificates recorded in the year 1899; 227 in 1898; 146 in 1897, and 185 in 1896.

The following Table shews the number of Notifications of each disease received in each month of the year, and also the totals for this and the ten previous years.

	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Total
January					9		9
February	2		1	3	5		11
March	3	1		2	3		9
April	3	3			1		7
May	3	3		1	7		14
June	1			2	2		5
July				1	6		7
August	5	1		3	4		13
September	6	7			3		16
October	7	1			1		9
November	1			1	4		6
December	3				4		9
1901	34	18	1	13	49		115
1900	41	18	1	11	45		116
1899	20	71	1	11	36		139
1898	91	92	2	8	34		227
1897	112	9		6	19		146
1896	118	31		23	13		185
1895	48	30		11	17	3	109
1894	94	14	2	9	19	32	170
1893	235	18	5	8	23	4	293
1892	168	36	1	5	34		244
1891	63	13	2	2	12		92

Notifications received from each of the five Wards of the Township in each month of the Year :—

	New Town Ward.	High Town Ward.	Town Hall Ward.	Bradley Ward.	Ettingshall Ward.
January ...	3	3	1	2	
February ...	1	6	3	1	
March	1	5		1	2
April		2	3		2
May	6	4	3		1
June	2	2	1		
July	2	1		1	3
August ...	3		5	1	4
September ...	10	1	1	4	
October ...	3		4	2	
November ...		1	2	2	1
December ...	2	3	3		1
Total	33	28	26	14	14

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

During the year 22 cases of Scarlet Fever, from 17 houses, were admitted into the iron building, and one—the young child previously referred to—died. One case was received in May.

The question of providing a permanent hospital for infectious cases (other than Smallpox) remains in *statu quo.* I am still strongly of opinion that the most economical and satisfactory plan will be to combine with some of the neighbouring Authorities to form a "Hospital District," under the Isolation Hospital Act.

The erection of an efficient disinfecting apparatus is of pressing importance, and should be undertaken at the earliest possible moment.

The isolation of Smallpox cases, in a separate and distinct building is at present under the consideration of the County Council and the local Authorities in South Staffordshire. The scheme formulated by the County Medical Officer of Health for discussion by the various District Councils concerned, in which a large combination of Districts is suggested, is undoubtedly the wisest and best. Experience has shown that patients suffering from this disease can be conveyed—in properly constructed ambulances—even for miles without injury, and as it is generally admitted that the poison of Smallpox can be carried through the air for long distances, it is desirable to have as few centres for this disease as possible. Every district ought to be particularly glad to get rid of its Smallpox, and, with telephonic communication between the Hospital and the various Medical Officers of Health, cases occurring in any part of the combined area could be promptly and safely removed—even within an hour or two of their detection.

House Accommodation —During the first half of the year five houses were certified, under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, as unfit for human habitation. Owing to the views of your Clerk, who states that this Act should never be invoked except in cases where it is absolutely impossible, under any circumstances, to render a dwelling inhabitable, and where nothing short of demolition of the property is intended, other houses—18 in number—have been reported on under the Public Health Act, and the necessary notices served to remedy the defects complained of. Several notices in addition, have been served for the provision of proper spouting to dwellings.

Without going over the same ground I should like to reiterate the views expressed in last year's Annual Report on the great difficulties to be met with in dealing with insanitary property here, and the special need for improved dwellings for the poor in more open spaces. Until these are provided it will be impossible to close many of the existing houses, bad though they be.

Thirty-nine new houses were erected in the year, as compared with 12 in the preceding year, 35 in the year 1899, and 38 in 1898. I am inclined to think that in many new buildings the damp-proof course is not so efficient as it should be, and in all cases, as before stated, the ground should be covered with a layer of concrete before the dwellings are built.

House Refuse Removal and Disposal.—Since my last Annual Report was written a large number of extra pans or pails have been ordered, so that a fresh one can in every instance be supplied when a full one is removed. Arrangements however, are still necessary, whereby all the old pails can be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being again used. Until this system is abolished there is nothing so good as the "Congleton Peat Pail," if properly attended to.

The practice of "tipping" the refuse on pieces of vacant land is still in use and the evils attached to it are more serious than ever. During the past summer I strongly urged the importance of this matter, and your Council, on my suggestion, asked Mr. Baldwin Latham to prepare an estimate of the cost of the erection and maintenance of a Dust Destructor to be incorporated in the proposed sewerage scheme. I regret to learn that the cost for this district under present conditions is practically prohibitive, and I would still strongly urge that the matter should not be abandoned. No other way of dealing with the refuse here can be satisfactory, and I would suggest that application should be made to the Local Government Board to allow the repayment of moneys for such purpose to be spread over a much greater number of years than has hitherto been the case. Only in such a way can districts like this have the least chance of making proper provision for the sanitary welfare, in different directions, of the community, and recent speeches of the President of the Board justify the hope that such consent would be given.

The Sanitary Inspector has, during the past year, given much attention to the courts and yards, and many of them have been cleaned and paved. The Council has now appointed a man specially to look after night soil removal, the conditions of ash-pits and privies, and generally to check the work of the night soil contractor. The Inspector of Nuisances is therefore free to devote himself entirely to his statutory duties, and his attention during the next year will be given largely to the condition of the back yards and small house property.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—These have been regularly visited and attention given to the ventilation, cubic space, water supply, and drainage.

Workshops and Bake-houses.—The workshops and bake-houses have also been inspected and found satisfactory—the former have been regularly lime-washed.

The Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, came into force on January 1st, 1902. It makes several alterations and additions to the duties of Sanitary Authorities in regard to workshops and bakehouses. It will create a considerable increase of work in the Health Departments, and will, probably, necessitate the compilation of a new register.

Slaughter Houses, Lodging Houses, &c.—There are 39 Slaughter-houses in the district, and only one notice had to be served during the year. Some unsound ham, exposed for sale, was seized and the owner was summoned before the magistrates and fined £5 and costs. The Lodging-houses have been regularly inspected.

Vital Statistics.—The area of the district is 1867 acres, and the following gives the particulars of the census taken last March.

	Inhabited Houses.	Population.		
		Males.	Females	Total.
Bilston Urban District.	5029	12,026	12,008	24,034
New Town Ward ...	1164	2747	2801	5548
High Town Ward ...	1093	2622	2585	5207
Town Hall Ward ...	1047	2423	2580	5003
Bradley Ward ...	865	2153	2068	4221
Ettingshall Ward ...	860	2081	1974	4055

The population at the Census in 1891 was 23,453, and in 1881 22,730. The birth rates and death rates for the different years of the past decade, given in previous Annual Reports, will necessarily require correction to some extent.

Births.—Eight hundred and eighty one births, 456 males and 425 females, were registered during the year, being a decrease of 11 on the previous year, and giving a birth rate of 36·5 per thousand. The following gives the number of births, male and female, for the past three years :—

	1901.			1900.			1899.		
	Males.	F'ales.	Total	Males.	F'ales.	Total.	Males.	F'ales.	Total
First Quarter	108	112	220	115	117	232	131	135	266
Second ,,	122	101	223	107	103	210	124	114	238
Third ,,	105	109	214	110	118	228	93	108	201
Fourth ,,	121	103	224	108	114	222	141	108	249
	456	425	881	440	452	892	489	465	954

Table showing the number of Births and Birth Rates for the decade 1891—1900.

Year.	Males.	Females	Total.	Rate per 1000 of Population.
1891	469	481	950	43·4
1892	484	439	923	39·2
1893	466	449	915	38·9
1894	474	445	919	39·1
1895	485	472	957	40·7
1896	459	408	867	37·02
1897	502	445	947	40·2
1898	490	445	935	39·7
1899	489	465	954	40·5
1900	440	452	892	36·4
Yearly Average 1891-00	475	450	925	41·5
1901	456	425	881	36·6

For purposes of comparison the birth rate of the whole country and of the Staffordshire Urban and Rural Districts for the same years (1891-1900), as given by the County Medical Officer, are added, together with the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and in the large towns of England. It will be noticed that the birth rate is steadily decreasing in this district, and in the country generally.

Districts.	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Staffs. Combined Urban & Rural	35·7	35·1	35·7	34·3	35·1	34·2	33·5	34·0	33·4	32·8
Staffs. Urban	37·3	36·3	36·6	35·4	36·2	35·4	34·8	35·0	34·5	33·9
Staffs. Rural	31·6	32·2	33·3	31·6	32·0	31·2	30·3	31·1	30·3	29·8
England & Wales	31·4	30·5	30·8	29·6	30·3	29·7	29·7	29·4	29·3	28·9
Large Towns in England ...	32·5	31·8	31·8	30·6	31·2	31·2	30·6	30·2	30·1	29·4
Bilston	40·4	39·2	38·9	39·1	40·7	37·0	40·2	39·7	36·4	36·5

Deaths.—During the year 499 deaths were registered from all causes, 270 males and 229 females, being a decrease of 58 in the preceding year, and giving a death rate of 20·7 per thousand of the population. The average yearly number of deaths for the decade 1891—1900 was 532, and for the last half of that period 523.

Table giving the number of deaths in each quarter of the year classified according to age and sex.

1901.	Males.	F'ales	Total at all Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
First Quarter	79	81	160	55	35	3	5	32	30
Second ,,	50	40	90	34	12	2	6	20	16
Third ,,	68	47	115	56	21	3	3	17	15
Fourth ,,	73	61	134	50	18	6	6	39	15
	270	229	449	195	86	14	20	108	76

Table of Deaths during the past decade, classified according to age and sex.

Year	Males.	F'ales.	Total at all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
1891	282	274	556	200	89	22	12	104	122
1892	286	243	529	203	101	29	11	90	95
1893	277	257	534	185	80	26	22	91	130
1894	239	214	453	161	61	21	16	99	95
1895	327	307	634	215	163	22	15	96	123
1896	244	216	460	157	93	18	17	112	63
1897	308	274	582	214	90	13	21	154	90
1898	276	273	549	214	100	17	23	124	71
1899	263	206	469	181	66	14	11	122	75
1900	294	263	557	198	121	14	18	110	96
Yearly Average 1891-1900.	279	252	532	192	96	19	16	110	96
1901.	270	229	499	195	86	14	20	108	76

(For all years previous to 1896 the figures given are "under 60 years" and "above 60 years," instead of under and above "65 years."

It will thus be easily seen that the deaths last year were not only below the yearly average of the past decade, but were the lowest with three exceptions.

TABLE of Deaths for the four quarters of 1901, classified according to diseases, distinguishing those of Children under 5 years of age.

1901.	Age.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not "spasmodic."	Whooping Cough.	Con'd Fevers.			Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Diseases of Alimentary Organs.	Rheumatic Fever.	Heart Disease.	Phthisis.	Diseases of Respiratory Organs.	Influenza.	Pyæmia.	Ague.	Inquests.	Uncertified.	All Other Diseases.	Total at Ages Stated.	Total.
								Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.																	
1st Quarter	Under 5		1				19							4	5			1	20				3		37	90	160
	5 upwds.						1								1		5	9	20				8		26	70	
2nd Quarter	Under 5				2	2	3							1				1	6				3		28	46	90
	5 upwds.								1								3	6	10				4		20	44	
3rd Quarter	Under 5		1		1		1		1					37	1			1	2	1					31	77	115
	5 upwds.					1			1				1	2	2		5	5	2				5		14	38	
4th Quarter	Under 5						3							14					17	1					33	68	134
	5 upwds.			2					1				1		1		6	8	20				5		22	66	

TABLE OF DEATHS classified according to Diseases, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

YEARS.	AGE.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not 'spasmodic.')	Whooping Cough.	Cont'd. Fevers	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Puerperal Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease	Inquests.	Ill defined.	Influenza.	All Other Diseases.	Totals at Ages Stated.	Total at all Ages.	Death-rate per thousand.
1892	Under 5		13	3		2	19					13							1	56		14	8	2	174	305	529	22·5
	5 upwds.			3	1	1	4			6					1				14	54	8	25	2	3	102	224		
1893	Under 5		15	5		1	7			2		27							1	42	2	5	4	2	152	265	534	22·7
	5 upwds.			4		2				2		8					1		15	61	18	10	1	2	146	269		
1894	Under 5			6		6	12					9								35		12	6	1	135	222	453	19·2
	5 upwds.	1		2	1	1				1		1		1			1		17	49	16	23	1	7	109	231		
1895	Under 5	1	46	1		11	3					38								51		9	4	4	210	378	634	26·9
	5 upwds.		5			1				8		4							19	64	12	18	1	9	115	256		
1896	Under 5		7	9	4	7	17			2		26			2				2	56		5	3		110	250	460	19·5
	5 upwds.			1						5		3				1			19	53	11	12	1	3	100	210		
1897	Under 5		10	7	1	2	6					63							11	48		9	12	2	132	304	582	24·7
	5 upwds.		1	1	1		3			1		6		1					16	81	25	19	3	7	116	278		
1898	Under 5		19	6	1	1	5			2		59			1				7	50		8	3	1	151	314	549	23·3
	5 upwds.			2	2	1	1			20		2					1		15	49	19	15	1	5	102	235		
1899	Under 5			1		3	8			2		58								47		12	1		115	247	469	19·9
	5 upwds.				2	1	1			13		2							19	55	13	21	3	4	88	222		
1900	Under 5		34	2	1	5	8					29			1				2	67	2	15		1	152	319	557	22·7
	5 upwds.		1	2	2	1				4		1		1			1		17	55	24	13	1	15	99	238		
1901	Under 5		2		3	2	26			1		56							3	45			6	2	135	281	499	20·7
	5 upwds.			2		1	1			3		2			2			28		52	19				6	218		

Diseases of the Respiratory System.—Ninety nine deaths were registered as due to diseases of the respiratory system, 44, or nearly one half, being in children under 5 years of age, as compared with 122 in the previous year, 102 in the year 1899, and 99 in the year 1898. Sixteen occurred in the month of January, 17 in February, 8 in March, 7 in April, 6 in May, 4 in June, 3 in July, 1 in August, 9 in October, 10 in November, and 18 in December.

Phthisis.—No less than 31 deaths, 2 being in children under 5 years of age, were registered from Phthisis during the year, as compared with 19 in the previous year, and 19 in the year 1899. The following table shews at a glance the number of deaths due to this disease in each year of the past decade.

Year.	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1000.
1891	33	1·4
1892	15	0·6
1893	16	0·6
1894	17	0·7
1895	19	0·7
1896	21	0·8
1897	27	1·1
1898	22	0·9
1899	19	0·7
1900	19	0·7
Yearly Average. 1891-1900.	20	0·8
1901.	31	1·2

The causes of Consumption were fully discussed in my last Annual Report, together with the evil influences of over crowding, want of fresh air and sunlight, dampness and dirt in the dwelling. It would be a great advantage to include Phthisis among the Notifiable diseases, in order that the presence of every case in the district could be known, and proper steps taken to prevent the accumulation of infective dust in the house, and the thorough disinfection of the room occupied by the patient. "Spitting" should be condemned, especially in public places—trains, trams, assembly rooms, &c.—as well as in private houses.

It is instructive to note that the 31 deaths were distributed as follows in the five Wards :—12 in the New Town Ward, 8 in Bradley, 6 in High Town, 3 in Ettingshall, and 2 in the Town Hall Wards.

Inquests—Twenty-eight enquiries, 6 being in children under 5 years of age, were made by H. M. Coroner during the year, being the same number as the previous year. In the year 1899 there were 32, 23 in the year 1898, 28 in 1897, and 17 in 1896.

Uncertified Deaths.—It is very gratifying to be able to report that, for the first time in the decade, no death occurred in the year that was not certified by a medical man or the Coroner.

Infantile Mortality.—One hundred and ninety five children died in the first year of life, as compared with 198 in the previous year, 181 in the year 1899, 214 in 1898 and in 1897, being equal to an infantile mortality of 221 per thousand registered births. The following table gives the figures for the ten years 1891—1900 for Bilston, for the Urban Districts of Staffordshire, and for the large towns in England.

Deaths in children under 1 year per 1000 Registered Births.

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	Mean Rate.
Bilston ..	210	219	202	175	224	181	226	228	189	221	205
Urban Districts in Staffordshire	175	174	179	163	181	171	187	181	179	176	176
Large Towns in England ..	167	163	181	152	182	167	177	178	181	172	172

The excessive death rate in infants still continues, and seems likely to do so. During the past year the Council has, on my recommendation, had some leaflets printed, similar to those in use in Handsworth, giving plain instructions, in simple language, regarding the care and feeding of infants. The distribution of these has kindly been undertaken by the Registrar when registering the birth of a child, and we can only hope that in due time this will bring about better results.

Child Insurance—In previous years I have given figures to shew the number of infantile deaths, and the number of young children insured at the time of death, so that some deductions might in due time be drawn as to the influence of child insurance on infantile mortality. Unfortunately, the local Registrar has declined throughout the past year to give me any information on this point, being precluded, as he states, from doing so by the order of the Registrar General. If this is correct it only serves as another illustration of the absurdity of "red-tapeism," for all statistics bearing on the health and well-being of the community should be regularly and promptly at the service of every Medical Officer of Health. I think it would be well for a representation to be made by your Council to this effect both to the Registrar General and to the Local Government Board, and, if necessary, the support of the County Council should be asked for it.

For the first time I am able to give a table shewing by comparison, the state of each of the five Wards of the town. It will be readily seen that the New Town and High Town Wards are the worst, not only in the general death rate, but particularly in the proportion of deaths of infants under one year to one thousand registered births. These two Wards have the largest population and the smallest area—in other words, the density of population is much greater in them than in any other portion of the town. A surprising feature in the High Town Ward is the extraordinary low birth rate, and this, in part, explains the very high proportion of infantile deaths to the births.

TABLE giving the birth rate, death rate, infantile mortality, &c., for each of the five Wards in the town.

	Area (in Acres)	Population. Census 1901.	No. of houses	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Deaths of Infants per 1000 Births.	Deaths from Diarrhœa	Deaths from Phthisis.	No. of Notifications of Enteric Fever.
Whole Town ...	1867	24034	5029	36·5	20·7	221	58	31	18
New Town Ward	289	5548	1164	39·6	25·8	245	19	12	7
High Town Ward	115	5207	1093	29	22·8	316	16	6	5
Town Hall Ward	520	5003	1047	34·9	16·5	194	12	2	1
Bradley Ward ...	499	4221	865	40·9	18·2	156	8	8	1
Ettingshall Ward	444	4055	860	39·9	18·9	197	3	3	4

Appended are the Tables required by the Local Government Board and the Staffordshire County Council, together with the Sanitary Inspector's Statement, which gives a summary of the work done in his department during the year. In many cases statutory notices were not served as a verbal one was found to be sufficient.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D., EDIN.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Bilston,
March 24th, 1902.

TABLE I.

For Whole District of Bilston.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in District			
				Deaths under One Year of Age		Deaths at all Ages. Total.	
		Number	Rate per 1000	Number	Rate per 1000 Births regist'd	Number	Rate per 1000
1891	23,510	950	40·4	200	210	556	24·5
1892	23,569	923	39·1	203	219	529	22·4
1893	23,627	915	38·7	185	202	534	22·6
1894	23,685	919	38·8	161	175	453	19·1
1895	23,743	957	40·3	215	224	634	26·7
1896	23,801	867	36·4	157	181	460	19 3
1897	23,859	947	39·6	214	226	582	24·3
1898	23,917	935	39·09	214	228	549	22·9
1899	23,975	954	39·7	181	189	469	19·5
1900	24,034	892	37·1	198	221	557	23·1
Averages for years 1891-1900	23,776	925	38 9	192	207	532	22·4
1901	24,100	881	36·5	195	221	499	20·7

Area of District in Acres—1867.
(exclusive of area covered by water)

Total Population at all Ages—24,034.
(At Census of 1901)

No. of inhabited houses 5092.
Average number of persons per house 4·7.

In recording the facts under the various headings, attention has been paid to the notes on the Tables.

T. RIDLEY BAILEY, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Table II. Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1901.

Names of Localities.	Bilston.				New Town Ward.				High Town Ward.				Town Hall Ward.				Bradley Ward.				Ettingshall Ward.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1891 ...	23,510	950	556	200																				
1892 ...	23,569	923	529	203																				
1893 ...	23,627	915	534	185																				
1894 ...	23,685	919	453	161																				
1895 ...	23,743	957	634	215																				
1896 ...	23,801	867	460	157																				
1897 ...	23,859	947	582	214																				
1898 ...	23,917	935	549	214																				
1899 ...	23,975	954	469	181																				
1900 ...	24,034	892	557	198																				
Averages of years 1891 to 1900 ...	23,776	925	532	192																				
1901 ...	24,100	881	499	195	5,548	220	143	54	5,207	115	119	48	5,003	175	83	34	4,221	173	77	27	4,055	162	77	32

Table III. Table of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1901.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total cases notified in each locality					No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality				
	At all Ages	Under 1 Year	1 to 5 Years	5 to 15 Years	15 to 25 Years	25 to 65 Years	65 years & upwards	New Town Ward	High Town Ward	Town Hall Ward	Bradley Ward	Ettingshall Ward	New Town Ward	High Town Ward	Town Hall Ward	Bradley Ward	Ettingshall Ward
Diphtheria ...	8	2		5		1			2	4		2					
Membranous Croup	5		4	1					2	3							
Erysipelas ...	49	1		2	22	23	1	17	10	5	12	5					
Scarlet Fever ...	34		14	12	5	3		14	3	15		2	12	3	6		1
Enteric Fever ...	18		1	2	10	5		7	5	1	1	4					
Puerperal Fever ...	1				1						1						
Totals	115	3	19	22	38	32	1	38	22	28	14	13	12	3	6		1

Isolation Hospital—Cottage Hospital and Iron Building.

Table IV. Causes of, and Ages at, death during the Year 1901.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in or belonging to localities. At all ages.				
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	New Town Ward.	High Town Ward	Town Hall Ward.	Bradley Ward.	Ettingshall Ward.
Measles	2		2					2				
Scarlet Fever	2				1	1				2		
Whooping Cough	27	8	18	1				9	6	7	3	2
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	6	1	4	1					2	2		2
Enteric Fever	4		1	1		2		2			1	1
Epidemic Influenza	2	1	1						2			
Diarrhœa	58	40	16				2	19	16	12	8	3
Enteritis	7	5	1			1			3			4
Erysipelas	2					1	1		1			1
Phthisis	31	1	2		10	18		12	6	2	8	3
Other tubercular diseases	11	6	4			1		2	6	2		1
Cancer, Malignant disease	4					4		3	1			
Bronchitis	81	30	12	1		20	18	34	17	11	10	9
Pneumonia	16	2	1	1	3	8	1	3	3	4	3	3
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of Liver)	3					2	1		2	1		
Venereal Diseases	1	1							1			
Heart Diseases	19				2	11	6	7	1	6	1	4
Accidents	7			2	1	4			1		4	2
Suicides	2						2		1			1
Inquests in other cases	19	3	3									
All other causes	195	97	21	7	3	35	45	50	50	34	39	41
All causes	499	195	86	14	20	108	76	143	119	83	77	77

TABLE V. SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1901, IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BILSTON.

		Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions	123	18	14
	Structural Defects			
	Overcrowding	7		7
	Unfit for Habitation			
	Lodging Houses	15		
	Dairies and Milk Shops	102		
	Cowsheds	52		
	Bakehouses	187		
	Slaughter-houses	215		
	Canal Boats	49	3	3
	Ashpits and Privies	14,314		
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure (10 without written notices)	16		6
House-Drainage	Water Closets			
	Defective Taps			
	No Disconnection			
	Other Faults (Obstructed Drains 8, Spouting 23.)	31		31
	Water Supply (Plentiful supply of Tap Water)			
	Pigsties			
	Animals improperly kept			
	Offensive Trades			
	Smoke Nussances			
	Other Nuisances, e.g., re-paving and cleaning of courts & yards	40		40
	Totals	15,151	21	101

	Nos.
Seizures of unwholesome Food (1 case of Bad Ham. £5 and Costs)	1
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	
,, ,, found Adulterated	
,, of Water taken for Analysis	
,, ,, condemned as unfit for use	

Precautions against Infectious Diseases.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	
Schools ,, ,, ,, ,,	17
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	
Convictions ,, ,, ,, ,,	
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things ,,	
Convictions ,, ,, ,, ,,	

Signed - **WILLIAM H. WELLS,**

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

MARCH 2nd, 1902.